

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 SSO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 SP-02 OPR-01 PRS-01 /038 W

----- 073340

R 241208Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1933

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4892

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, CB, ID, TH

SUBJ: INDONESIAN CONCERN ABOUT CAMBODIA

1. INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR SOETARTO SIGIT CALLED ON ME MARCH 24 FOR A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE CAMBODIAN SITUATION. HE ASKED SPECIFICALLY WHETHER POCHENTONG AIRPORT HAD RE-OPENED. I SAID THAT THE TWO DAMAGED AIRCRAFT HAD TAKEN OFF FOR TAN SON NHUT AND THAT PLANES HAD BEEN FLYING IN AND OUT OF POCHENTONG SINCE THIS MORNING.

2. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER WE WERE CONTINUING OUR AIRLIFT OUTOF THAILAND. HE NOTED THAT THE PRESS OVER THE WEEKEND HAD QUOTED DEFENSE MINISTER PRAMAN ADIREKSAN AS SAYING THAT THE FLIGHTS MUST STOP. I REPLIED THAT THE FLIGHTS WERE INDEED CONTINUING. I HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE RTG HAD TAKEN THE DECISION TO PERMIT THEIR CONTINUATION BUT NOT TO MAKE PUBLIC CONFIRMATION OF THE FACT.

3. THE AMBASSADOR THEN ASKED ABOUT THE MILITARY SITUATION AROUND PHNOM PENH. I ANSWERED THAT, WHILE IT WAS STILL
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PRECARIOUS, AT LEAST NO 105MM HOWITZERS HAD BEEN FIRED AT

THE AIRPORT FOR SOME DAYS. WE CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT THERE WAS A REASONABLE CHANCE THE CITY WOULD HOLD AND FELT IT WAS MOST IMPORTANT FOR CAMBODIA'S ASIAN NEIGHBORS TO HANG IN THERE. SOETARTO AGREED. HE SAID INDONESIA HAD AN ARRANGEMENT WITH THAILAND TO EVACUATE THEIR PERSONNEL IF THIS BECAME NECESSARY BUT THEY WERE CONCERNED THAT THEY MIGHT NOT GET WORD IN TIME TO GET OUT. I SUGGESTED THEIR PEOPLE IN PHNOM PENH STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH OUR EMBASSY FOR A READING OF THE SITUATION. I SAID RECENT PRESS REPORTS ARE EXAGGERATED AND WE HAVE NO INTENTION TO PULL OUT AT THIS TIME.

4. COMMENT: THE INDONESIANS ARE OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE FATE OF CAMBODIA AND CONFUSED ABOUT PROSPECTS AS A RESULT OF PANICKY PRESS REPORTS THAT WE ARE BURNING DOCUMENTS IN PHNOM PENH AND PREPARING TO LEAVE. THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF THAI OFFICIALS OVER THE WEEKEND HAVE COMPOUNDED THE CONFUSION. ON LEAVING SOETARTO SAID HE WAS REASSURED ABOUT THE SITUATION. I WILL UNDERTAKE TO KEEP HIM INFORMED TO ENCOURAGE HIM TO RECOMMEND THAT INDONESIA KEEP ITS PEOPLE IN PHNOM PENH.
MASTERS

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